

I support media diversity

I am writing to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the biennial review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's burgeoning media market, I strongly believe that the FCC has made a grave error and done a disservice to a cherished democratic principle in voting to lift media ownership rules. The rules you abandoned served the public interest by limiting the market dominance of already giant corporations in the broadcast industry.

The right to conduct informed debate and discussion of current events and issues is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Democracy is best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas; indeed it must generate such diversity in order to survive. In allowing media outlets to merge, you have compromised my ability to access open, informed discussion incorporating a multiplicity of viewpoints.

By lifting restrictions on media ownership rules, you have not served the public interest. The FCC has a responsibility to consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social and civic interest; all citizens have a substantial investment in the vital freedom of the free exchange of ideas.

You have damaged a vital organ of democracy, and I intend to raise the issue with my senators and congressman, and to continue to protest your decision of June 2.

Thank you.

Shawn Anderson